

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

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INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 2450

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE, CI

SUBJ: PERU/CHILE -- MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC TALKS

1. DURING A MARCH 24 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR DEAN,
FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE BRIEFLY REFERRED TO A "POLITICALLY
OFFENSIVE" ACCOUNT OF PRIME MINISTER ARBULU'S VISIT TO CHILE
CARRIED IN A WEEKLY MAGAZINE. HE ALSO DISCUSSED THE STATE
OF PLAY IN PERU-CHILE FOREIGN OFFICE DISCUSSIONS.

2. DE LA PUENTE TOOK UMBRAGE AT AN ARTICLE ON THE ARBULU
VISIT APPEARING IN THE INDEPENDENT WEEKLY EQUIS-X WHICH ATTRIBUTED
THE VISIT'S SUCCESS AS A "MISSION OF PEACE" TO PERUVIAN POLITICAL
AND MILITARY SUPERIORITY AS WELL AS TO PERU'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH
HEMISPHERIC NEIGHBORS. EQUIS-X STATED THAT PERU HAS "NEW AND
HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED ARMAMENT, MAKING IT STRONGER THAN EVER...
AND WITH AN INTERNAL CLIMATE INCOMPARABLY BETTER AND LESS
CONFLICTIVE THAN THAT WHICH CHARACTERIZES CHILE". MEANWHILE
CHILE "IS DENIED ARMS...IS ISOLATED FROM COUNTRIES IN THE
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC BLOC...IS CONFRONTING THE U.S. OVER THE
MATTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FINALLY IS FRACTURED INTERNALLY BY
POLARIZATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES".
DE LA PUENTE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE TONE OF THE EQUIS-X
ARTICLE WAS BELLICOSE AND ALL WRONG. IN THE INTEREST OF PERU-CHILE
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RELATIONS DE LA PUENTE SAID HE WAS GOING TO SCHEDULE A PRESS INTERVIEW OR CONFERENCE TO COUNTER THE NEGATIVE LINE OF THE EQUIS-X EDITORIAL AND TO PUT THE ARBULU VISIT IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

3. DE LA PUENTE THEN CONFIDENTIALLY ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE "MILITARY DIPLOMACY" AND EXCHANGE VISITS WERE SUCCESSFULLY BEING CARRIED OUT WITH CHILE HIS EFFORTS TO MEET WITH GOC FONMIN

CARVAJAL HAD BEEN FRUSTRATED BY THE LATTER'S "BRITANNIC" STAND-OFFISHNESS. HE SAID THAT TWICE SINCE THE NOVEMBER DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE ON THE CORRIDOR HE HAS PROPOSED MEETINGS WITH CARVAJAL WITHOUT SUCCESS, DESPITE HIS EFFORTS TO ASSURE CARVAJAL THAT DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE WIDE-RANGING AND OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE DID NOTE THAT THE CHILE-PERU BILATERAL COMMISSION (CHARGED WITH DISCUSSING COMMERCIAL, CULTURAL AND OTHER ISSUES AND SAID TO BE COMPETENT TO TAKE UP THE BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR QUESTION AS WELL) IS SCHEDULED TO MEET IN LIMA APRIL 16. DE LA PUENTE IMPLIED THAT THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE SOME RENEWAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY DIALOGUE ON BILATERAL ISSUES.

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